Kidnapping for ransom on the rise, says NP chief

• Abdul Malik Baloch notes deteriorating law and order situation is causing fear among the public and business community • Recalls two prominent businessmen abducted recently

By Behram Baloch

GWADAR: National Party President Dr Abdul Malik Baloch has expressed serious concern over the increasing incidents of kidnapping for ransom in Kech district, warning that the deteriorating law and order situation is creating severe insecurity among the public and business community and adversely affecting economic activity.

Speaking at a press conference, organised by All Parties Kech (APK) at the Turbat Press Club on Friday, he urged the relevant authorities to take immediate notice of the situation and adopt effective measures, warning that failure to act could further worsen conditions.

During the briefing, it was stated that two well-known and peaceful businessmen from Kech — Haseeb Yasin, son of Haji Yasin, and Shah Nawaz Gul Jan, son of Haji Gul Jan Rind — had been abducted for ransom, causing widespread concern across the district.

Dr Baloch said that over the past month, continuous contacts had been made with all relevant authorities, including the chief minister of Balochistan and the Inspector General of Police, but no satisfactory response or practical progress had been witnessed so far. He added that the issue was now being highlighted through the media due to lack of action.

He said that crimes such as kidnapping for ransom were paralysing business activities and instilling fear among investors, stressing that it was the government's responsibility to ensure the safety of the business community and provide an environment where economic activities could be carried out without fear.

Addressing the presser, APK Convener Nawab Khan Shambizai warned that if the two abducted individuals were not recovered at the earliest, his party, lawyers' organisations, traders' bodies, doctors' associations and other groups would stage a protest rally in Kech on January 5, followed by a complete district-wide strike on January 7.

The participants of the presser unanimously demanded that the government take immediate notice of the rising incidents of kidnapping for ransom, ensure the safe recovery of both abducted businessmen, and adopt concrete measures to improve the overall law and order situation in Kech district.

Representatives of various political and social organisations also attended the press conference, includingBalochistan Bar Council Vice Chairman Advocate Jadin Dashti, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam leader and former senator Ismail Baloch, Vice Chairman District Kech Mir Bahar Jameel Dashti, National Party Kech President Younis Javed, BSO Pajjar Chairman Boheer Saleh, PMA District President Dr Abdul Ghani Baloch,Kech Bar Association President Advocate Majid Shah, BNP Awami central leader Zareef Zadak Baloch, Anjuman-i-Tajran Kech President Nisar Ahmed Jouski and others.

Pink Bus service for women launched in Quetta

By Muhammad Akbar Notezai

QUETTA: With the start of the new year, the Balochistan government has formally launched the Pink Bus service for women and female students in the provincial capital.

In a message posted on social media platform X on Friday, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said the initiative aims to make daily commuting safer, more dignified and easier for women in Balochistan.

He described the Pink Bus service as an important social reform measure that will help women and students access education, employment and healthcare facilities with greater ease.

ONE of the newly launched pink buses can be seen on Quetta's University Road.—Dawn

CM Bugti said a safe transportation system for women is a key and fundamental component of the provincial government's reform agenda. He emphasised that the government's top priority is to ensure the continuity of the Pink Bus service on a permanent basis.

He further said that in the next phase, the service would be expanded to other districts of the province so that more women could benefit from the facility.

The chief minister added that the provincial government is taking practical and effective steps to empower women, and that the Pink Bus Service is part of these efforts aimed at promoting women's safety, independence and social inclusion.

Four bodies found in Harnai

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Four unidentified bodies were recovered from the Harnai area of Balochistan.

Levies personnel took custody of the bodies and shifted them to a hospital. According to details, the bodies were found in a mountainous area near Zinda Pir, about 22 miles from Harnai. Upon receiving the information, Levies personnel reached the site, cordoned off the area, and carried out initial legal procedures.

After completion of medico-legal formalities, the bodies were placed in the morgue for identification.

Further investigation is ongoing by the local Levies authorities.

Journalists, YouTubers get life terms

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each offence.

In case they fail to pay the fine for any of the offences they have been found guilty of committing, the period of their imprisonment will be extended by six months, according to the court orders.

The court granted the convicts the benefit of Section 382-B (period of detention to be considered while awarding sentence of imprisonment) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that all sentences handed out to them were to run concurrently.

"The convict is informed that he has the right to file/prefer an appeal in the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court, Islamabad within seven days," each of the orders read.

The court also authorised and instructed the relevant station house officers to arrest the convicts "upon his availability and to forward him to jail for the commitment of his sentence".

Trial proceedings

During the trial, the prosecution presented 24 witnesses. Public Prosecutor Raja Naveed Hussain Kayani represented the state, while Advocate Gulfam Ashraf Goraiya appeared on behalf of the accused.

Records show that Advocate Goraiya was appointed as the defence counsel by the court.

A detailed written judgement, which is yet to be issued by the court, is expected to outline the evidentiary basis and legal reasoning underpinning the multiple convictions and sentences.

The cases against the seven convicted individuals were registered in 2023.

The case against Sabir Shakir, Moeed Pirzada and Akbar Hussain was registered by Islamabad police on charges of sedition and terrorism for their alleged involvement in the violence and vandalism amid protests that erupted in the wake of PTI founder's arrest.

Similarly, Shaheen Sehbai, Wajahat Saeed Khan, Adil Raja and Haider Raza Mehdi were booked for "abetting mutiny" and inciting people to attack military installations across the country on May 9, 2023.

Response

Although they are usually quite active on social media, the X accounts of Wajahat S. Khan, Shaheen Sehbai, Moeed Pirzada and Akbar Hussain were silent over the development until going to press.

However, in separate tweets, Sabir Shakir, Adil Raja and Haider Mehdi reacted to the sentencing.

"Speaking truth to power is now called Digital Terrorism in Pakistan," wrote Raja, while Shakir vowed to continue raising his voice "for the Constitution, law, democracy, independent judiciary, free media, free parliament, and fundamental rights".

Nur Khan's daughter dies in US road accident

WASHINGTON: Dr Faiqa Qureshi — the daughter of PAF Air Marshal Nur Khan — passed away after a traffic accident in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. She was 75.

According to the Dinwiddie County Police Department, the crash occurred on I-85 North near McKinney Highway on Dec 29. Dr Qureshi died at the scene when her car reportedly collided with an obstruction and caught fire.

Dr Qureshi was a highly respected medical professional, known for her dedication to paediatric emergency medicine.

Her father was among Pakistan's most admired military figures, serving as PAF chief and later holding key roles in civil aviation, sports administration, and public service.—Correspondent

No 'minus Imran' condition

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the National Assembly chamber if they did not wish to come to his office.

Asked about his earlier remarks, Mr Sanaullah said the prime minister would have taken PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and the establishment into confidence before extending any offer of talks to the opposition.

He said that efforts by Tehreek Tahaffuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) and the PTI's second- and third-tier leadership to initiate negotiations could not move forward unless Imran Khan changes his policy in favour of dialogue.

The adviser claimed the PTI founder had not authorised anyone to negotiate, saying his message, conveyed by his sister Aleema Khan, was that "anyone who talks about negotiations is not among us".

Imran Khan "sent a message of street agitation and a wheel-jam strike, and also asked (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister) Sohail Afridi to visit Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh for mobilisation", Mr Sanaullah said, reiterating that Mr Khan was the sole "hindrance" in negotiations.

Meanwhile, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on Friday said political stability could not be achieved through confrontation, stressing that President Zardari was the only political figure who could create such an environment.

Mr Haider said that PTI founding chairman Imran Khan could not be released through street pressure or political confrontation. "The only viable path forward for the country is dialogue," Mr Haider said while speaking to the media at a ceremony marking the birth anniversary of Hazrat Ali (RA).

Earlier in December, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his offer of talks with the opposition, while stressing that negotiations could proceed only on "legitimate matters".

At a recent national conference organised by the TTAP alliance, participants agreed that the door for dialogue should never be closed in a democracy. The same day, political leaders from across the spectrum, including from the PML-N, called for restraint and engagement, warning that political confrontation was fuelling instability and violence.

Kalbe Ali in Rawalpindi also contributed to this report

Auction of 600MHz spectrum next month

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had nearly 600MHz despite a smaller population.

"Our goal is not just faster internet, but future-ready connectivity," Ms Khawaja said, adding that the government was working with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and international consultants to ensure the process complies with global best practices.

She said connectivity was no longer a luxury but a critical infrastructure for economic growth, national security, education, healthcare, agriculture and exports, noting that Pakistan was the world's fourth-largest freelancing economy and that the IT industry was growing at an annual rate of around 20 to 21 per cent.

The minister said Pakistan had also joined the world's longest submarine cable system, SMW-6, and that two more undersea internet cables were expected to become operational this year.

"These developments will reduce reliance on limited international routes and help minimise disruptions caused by global cable cuts," she added.

Ms Khawaja also pointed to the cabinet's approval of a Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) policy, under which MVNOs would purchase network capacity in bulk from existing operators and offer services under their own brands. She said the policy would encourage greater competition, improve affordability and attract investment in the telecom sector.

In addition, she said the PTA had approved district-level internet service provider (ISP) licences, enabling local cable operators and small companies to legally provide services in villages, small towns and underserved areas. The move, she added, would help expand fibre connectivity beyond major commercial centres.

Responding to a question about service suspensions, the minister said shutdowns of mobile or internet services were imposed strictly on security directives issued by the interior ministry and were not a policy decision of the IT ministry. "Human lives are more important than connectivity," she said, adding that such measures were taken only in extreme situations.

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INVITATION TO E-BIDS

THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

E-Bids are invited through SAP-Ariba Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules:

SR #	TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-LE-PT-CSR-DOC308130621-2026	FOOD HAMPERS FOR RAMZAN RATION DRIVE	19.01.2026 AT 1130 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-LD-PT-ADMIN-308105956-2026	DIESEL HYBRID / ELECTRIC BUSES & CHARGING STATION	21.01.2026 AT 1130 Hrs

2. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
3. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at **www.ppra.org.pk**.
4. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at **https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders** or **https://discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621.** For details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
5. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

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PUBLIC AUCTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY i.e. 8 KANALS INDUSTERIAL LAND WITH BUILDING STRUCTURE 25,145 SFT AND PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT & MACHINERY, LOCATED AT NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ZONE (RCCI), RAWAT, RAWALPINDI

Under Section 15 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001, The Bank of Punjab ("BOP"), having its Head Office at BOP Tower, Main Boulevard, Gulberg-III, Lahore and a Branch Office at Blue Area, Islamabad, offers the auction of subject mortgaged property.

WHEREAS in terms of Rule 3 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Rules, 2018 (upheld up to the level of Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan), BOP got the mortgaged property independently evaluated by three (03) PBA approved professional Valuators i.e. (M/S Sipra & Company Pvt. Ltd, M/S Creative Consultants & Construction and M/S A.J Valuers Associates Pvt. Ltd, for determining the reserve price/forced sale value. The highest valuation was by M/S Creative Consultants & Construction dated 14-07-2025 and, therefore, adopted as the reserve price under rule 3 (b) (iii) ibid.

NOW THEREFORE, BOP invites all interested persons/parties to participate in the public auction of the mortgaged property (described below) scheduled as mentioned there against.

1.	Customer:	M/s ARP Private Limited, Head Office at Plot # 12 & 12-A, Street # W-3, National Industrial Zone (RCCI), Rawat, Islamabad.
2.	Mortgagor:	Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan S/O Ali Muhammad Khan R/O House # 250, Muhalla Tulsa LalaZar, Rawalpindi Cantt. Rawalpindi. & House No. 8, Street No. 4, Sector- C, Phase-II, DHA, Islamabad.
3.	Guarantor:	Mr. Umair Ahmed Khan S/O Farooq Ahmad Khan R/O House No.250 Muhalla Tulsa LalaZar, Rawalpindi Cantt., Rawalpindi & House No. 8, Street No. 4, Sector-C, Phase-II, DHA, Islamabad.

(Parties at Serial No.1 to 3 shall hereinafter collectively be referred to as Customer, Mortgagor & Guarantors).

Whereas the BOP under rule 3(a)(i) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Rules, 2018 engaged M/S H.A.M.D & CO Chartered Accountants to have the mortgaged money determined including cost of funds as per sub-section 2 of section 3 of the said Ordinance. The mortgaged money determined by the said Chartered Accountants is as under:

Detail of Mortgaged Money (as per Chartered Accountants): **Amount in PKR**

Facility Name	Principal	Legal/Perforce Charges	COF Till 31-12-2025	Total
Running Finance	94,959,511/-	1,123,450/-	36,222,310/-	132,305,271/-

Rupees: One Hundred Thirty-Two Million, Three-Hundred-Five Thousand and Two-Hundred-Seventy-One Only.

"**Note:** Auction Expenses, legal/perforce charges and Cost of Funds till date of adjustment of the account will be included later on".

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY: **Amount in PKR**

Sr.#	Property Description	Reserve Price (FSV)	Auction Date & Place
1.	All that piece and parcel of property/ industrial plot Nos. 12 & 12-A, total admeasuring 8K-0M =4800 Square Yards (4K-0M-0S each), located at Street # W-3, National Industrial Zone (RCCI), Rawat, Islamabad.	83,640,000	Date: 20-01-2026 Place: At site i.e Industrial plot Nos. 12 & 12-A, located at Street # W-3, National Industrial Zone (RCCI), Rawat, Islamabad
2.	Building constructed on above said land total measuring 25,145 SQFT approximately i.e. Ground Floor, First Floor and Mumty, classified as Tablet Section, Packing Material Store, Glass Bottle Store, Finished Goods Store, Raw Material Store, Sugar Store, Blister Room, Admin Office, Utilities Area, RMQ Area, Main Gallery, Ampoule Section, Quality Control Department, Staff Change Area, Main Corridor, etc.	60,416,504	
3.	Building constructed on above said land total measuring 25,145 SQFT approximately i.e. Ground Floor, First Floor and Mumty, classified as Tablet Section, Packing Material Store, Glass Bottle Store, Finished Goods Store, Raw Material Store, Sugar Store, Blister Room, Admin Office, Utilities Area, RMQ Area, Main Gallery, Ampoule Section, Quality Control Department, Staff Change Area, Main Corridor, etc.	44,130,864	
	Total:	188,187,368	

Note: Reserve Price of above Land & Building AND Machinery is based on the valuations determined by M/S Creative Consultants & Construction (being the highest in value amongst the three independent valuations).

Terms and Conditions:

1. The valuation reports conducted by the three valuators ibid can be inspected at Special Assets Management Division, Head Office, 6th Floor, BOP Tower, Main Boulevard, Gulberg –III, Lahore at any time during office hours. Copies will be provided on request.
2. The auction will be held on 20-January-2026, at site i.e. Industrial plot Nos. 12 & 12-A, located at Street # W-3, National Industrial Zone (RCCI), Rawat, Islamabad.
3. The bidding will start at 11:00 AM.
4. The Reserve Price of Mortgaged Property are mentioned above. No bid shall be received below the Reserve Price.
5. Interested parties, in order to participate in the auction, shall be required to submit Bank Draft/Pay Order/CDR in the sum of **Rs.1,000,000/-** for Land & Building and Plant & Machinery, in the name of **"The Bank of Punjab"** along with copy of CNIC and cell number of the bidder.
6. Interested bidders may submit their bid jointly against consolidated reserve price or separately against individual reserve price(s) of each segment.
7. Highest bidder shall be declared the successful bidder.
8. On acceptance of the bid by BOP, the successful bidder shall deposit a minimum of twenty-five percent of the bid amount within two (02) business days of the auction. The rest of the bid amount shall be deposited within fifteen (15) days from the date of the initial deposit. In case of the failure of the bidder to deposit the remaining amount within the prescribed time line, BOP shall take the deposited amount as reduction of liability of the borrower and re-initiate the auction proceedings for recovery of the remaining amount.
9. After receiving the full bid money, the Bank will transfer the property in the name of successful bidder.
10. Successful bidder(s) shall pay all applicable taxes and expenses, costs, charges etc. in relation to the transfer of title as per prevailing laws of Pakistan.
11. Upon execution and registration of the sale deed of the Mortgaged Property in favor of the successful bidder, all rights, title and interest in such Mortgaged Property shall by law vest in the successful bidder/purchaser and the mortgagor shall be divested of any right, title and interest in the Mortgaged Property.
12. The successful bidder will be responsible to get the property transferred in his name or his nominee within 30 days from the date of final payment.
13. The properties shall be sold on **'as is where is basis'.** BOP will not assume any responsibility for the title of the properties, any charge or encumbrance pertaining to the said properties, measurements or specification concerns as well as any gas, electricity and/or property tax arrears etc. The particulars of the properties have been provided as per the best possible available information.
14. Bank Draft/Pay Order/CDR of unsuccessful bidders will be returned the same day.
15. Any or all bids can be rejected by BOP without assigning any reason.
16. Other terms & conditions, if any, will be announced before commencement of open bidding.

Special Assets Management Division
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